

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 COTONO 01201 251219Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 H-02
SY-05 PPTE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PC-05 AID-05
PRS-01 PA-02 USIA-15 OC-06 CCO-00 PER-05 DODE-00
/070 W

-----064587 251424Z /46

R 251030Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9889

UNCLAS COTONOU 1201

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, DM

SUBJECT: PHOTOGRAPHY IN BENIN

1. TODAY WE HAD AN AMERICAN CITIZEN ARRESTED FOR TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE PORT AREA OF COTONOU. FORTUNATELY, THANKS TO THE IMMEDIATE INTERCESSION OF OUR CONSUL AND UNEXPECTEDLY COOPERATIVE ATTITUDES ON THE PART OF THE BENINESE AUTHORITIES, HIS RELEASE WAS OBTAINED. BASED ON PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THE LOCAL BUREAUCRACY AND THE NEED FOR MINISTERIAL REVIEW OF EACH CASE, WE HAD FEARED THAT WE COULD NOT SECURE THE CITIZEN'S RELEASE FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

2. WE BELIEVE NEIGHBORING POSTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO DISCOURAGE TRAVELERS WITHOUT SPECIFIC BUSINESS HERE FROM COMING TO BENIN.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 COTONO 01201 251219Z

THOSE WHO INSIST SHOULD BE WARNED TO BE PARTICULARLY CAREFUL IN TAKING PICTURES WITHOUT THE OFFICIAL AUTHORIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN. THE ONLY SAFE PLACE FOR PHOTOGRAPHS IS THE LAGOON VILAGE OF GANVIE. TAKING PICTURES ELSEWHERE MAY LEAD TO DETENTION. (FYI: INDIVIDUAL HAD STOPPED AT ANOTHER EMBASSY ENROUTE AND HAD NOT BEEN TOLD OF SITUATION.) MANY THANKS.

THOMPSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS, TOURISTS, PHOTOGRAPHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977COTON001201
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770264-0839
Format: TEL
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770724/aaaaauui.tel
Line Count: 63
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cbd48264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1763305
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHOTOGRAPHY IN BENIN
TAGS: CASC, ETRD, DM
To: ABIDJAN ACCRA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cbd48264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009